

SAUDI ARABIA | IN FOCUS

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SAUDI ARABIA-U.S. RELATIONS

Crown Prince Sultan arrives in New York

Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz arrived in the United States on June 19 for a personal visit, during which he will undergo medical tests. At New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, the Crown Prince was greeted by a number of senior Saudi officials, including Riyadh Governor Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz, Assistant Minister of Defense and Aviation and Inspector General for Military Affairs Prince Khalid bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz and Secretary General of the National Security Council Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz.

3,000 Saudis graduate in the United States

Minister of Higher Education Dr. Khalid Al-Anqari attended the June 18 graduation ceremony in Maryland of 3,000 students studying in the U.S. under the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques' Program for Foreign Scholarship. The ceremony also was attended by Saudi Ambassador to the United States Adel A. Al-Jubeir and Saudi Cultural Attaché to the United States Dr. Mohammed Al-Eissa. Addressing the graduates, Dr. Al-Anqari noted, "The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques' Program for Foreign Scholarship began in 2006 with 5,000 students and has reached a more than 120,000 students worldwide to date." More than 43,500 Saudi students are now studying in the U.S. and an additional 5,000 students will participate in the scholarship program next year.

The same day, Saudi Cultural Mission in the United States held its first official Saudi Career Fair in Maryland, bringing together private sector organizations and recent Saudi graduates. The event included recruiters from 55 different companies including Saudi Aramco, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Saudi Arabian Airlines.

Cultural Mission's new office building formally opened

Minister of Higher Education Dr. Khalid Al-Anqari inaugurated the new 9,900 square meter (107,000 square foot) office building for the Saudi Cultural Mission in Fairfax County, Va. on June 18. The inauguration coincides with the 60th anniversary of the opening of the first Saudi Cultural Office in New York in 1951.

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The event also was attended by Saudi Ambassador to the U.S. Adel Al-Jubeir, Saudi Cultural Attaché to the U.S. Dr. Mohammed Al-Eissa and members of the Saudi diplomatic mission.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

GCC Foreign Ministers issue a final statement

The Foreign Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) issued a final statement following the conclusion of their 119th Ministerial Council session in Jeddah on June 14. The delegates included Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal, Omani Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah, Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa, UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ahmed bin Abdullah bin Zaid Al-Mahmoud, Kuwaiti Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry Khalid Sulaiman Al-Jarallah and GCC Secretary General Dr. Abdullatif Al-Zayani.

The Council expressed its satisfaction over GCC achievements in the economic, military, security, social, legal, cultural and informational fields. The delegates commended the important role played by the Peninsula Shield Force in Bahrain; affirmed the policy of the GCC member states to renounce violence and extremism in all forms; condemned Iran's continuing intervention and blatant provocations in the internal affairs of GCC states; and called for a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction. Regarding the the Middle East peace process, the Council stressed that a comprehensive, just and lasting peace can only be achieved by Israel's complete withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in the 1967 war and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

King Abdullah reassured about health of Yemeni President

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz made a telephone call on June 14 to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, during which the King was reassured about the health of the Yemeni leader. King Abdullah wished President Saleh, who is receiving medical treatment in the Kingdom, a speedy recover and reiterated Saudi Arabia's support for a united, secure and stable Yemen. President Saleh expressed gratitude for the medical treatment provided by the Kingdom for himself and other Yemeni officials injured in an attack on the presidential palace in Sana'a. He reassured the King that his health is good and improving and welcomed Saudi support for Yemen during its current crisis.

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SAUDI ARABIA DENIES RUMORS REGARDING TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

WASHINGTON [June 24, 2011] -- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia today issued the following statement regarding the false story being circulated on the Internet regarding implications of Saudi Arabian Airlines membership in the Delta Airlines SkyTeam Alliance:

"Rumors being circulated via the Internet regarding passenger flight restrictions on Saudi Arabian Airlines are completely false. The Government of Saudi Arabia does not deny visas to U.S. citizens based on their religion."

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